

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** July 12, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on July 5, 2002

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Thomas V. Skinner  
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS**

**International Publication Article, U.S. EPA's Role in Crisis Communications**

Melcrum Publishing, London, United Kingdom, interviewed Ginny Narsete, Emergency Response Public Affairs Specialist, on communicating internally and externally during a crisis. The article, "Cutting through bureaucracy," was published in the June/July 2002 issue of *On Message*. *On Message* is an international monthly publication produced for corporate and government communicators, corporate executive officers, and educators. Editorial Board members of the publication include executives from Nokia Corporation, McDonald's Europe, Pharmaceuticals International, University of Birmingham, British Gas Trading, etc. The focus of the article is based on prompt attention from public affairs, by communicating both internally and externally at the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). The article also discusses the importance of partnerships with other agencies, working with the media and communities.

Contact: Ginny Narsete (312-886-4359)

**TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

**Redeveloping Superfund Sites, Working with Potentially Responsible Parties, Houston, Texas**

On June 13, 2002, U.S. EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Initiative (SRI) Program sponsored a workshop for potentially responsible

parties (PRPs) in Houston, Texas. PRP representatives involved in Superfund cleanups in Region 6 listened to presentations from Remedial Project Managers who have successfully worked with PRPs to redevelop Superfund sites. Steve Luftig, Revitalization Advisor from U.S. EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), presented the most recent information regarding Agency initiatives for promoting redevelopment within Superfund. Concurrent workshop discussions regarding a variety of redevelopment issues, such as: Creating Value, Saving Costs and Managing Liability through Multi-Stakeholder Redevelopment; The Role of Institutional Controls; Redevelopment Issues in Consent Order/Decree Negotiations; and, Preparing a Site for a Developer, were held. Challenges and opportunities were identified including ways U.S. EPA can help promote PRP-lead redevelopment. An afternoon session for sharing ideas with U.S. EPA Headquarters was lead by Steve Luftig and John Harris, SRI National Program Coordinator, and allowed for the large group to exchange ideas on how U.S. EPA can help PRPs in the redevelopment process.

Contact: Thomas Bloom (312-886-1967)

#### **STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK**

##### **Letter of Commendation (Stephanie Ball), Pine River Superfund Citizens Task Force, Velsicol Chemical Corp. (Michigan) Superfund Site, Gratiot County, Michigan**

In a letter to William E. Muno, Director, Superfund Division, dated July 2, 2002, Jane Keon, Chairperson, Pine River Superfund Citizens Task Force, commended Remedial Project Manager Stephanie Ball, as follows:

"As Chairperson of the Pine River Superfund Citizens Task Force, I wish to commend Stephanie Ball for her excellent assistance in moving us closer to our goal of cleaning up the contaminated waste in our community.

Ms. Ball has willingly listened to the advice and suggestions from our Community Advisory Group during the course of the huge remediation effort now taking place in the Pine River. When members of our Technical Committee expressed their concerns about wastewater effluent toxicity, she listened and agreed and changes were made in the polymers used in the water treatment facility. When area residents expressed concern about the levels of dust in the air during sediment removal, she listened and set up a system of water spraying to help control the dust. She is now working with the state project manager in devising a remediation plan for the leaking plant site at the Velsicol Chemical Superfund Site.

We appreciate Ms. Ball's hard work, her willingness to listen to us and take us seriously, and her professional, yet friendly, manner.

We look forward to working with her during this next phase of cleanup of the plant site, and the continuing cleanup of the riverbed."

Contact: Stephanie Ball (312-353-2315)

**Letter of Appreciation (Pam Gallichio, Brenda Jones, and Keith Lesniak), Career Information Day, Waukegan Public Schools, Waukegan, Illinois**

In a letter to Thomas V. Skinner, Regional Administrator, dated June 5, 2002, John Glinka, 5th Grade Teacher, Waukegan Public Schools, expressed thanks to Pam Gallichio, Brenda Jones, and Keith Lesniak, as follows:

" McCall fifth graders in Room 202 and 203 wish to thank your staff for presenting on Career Information Day on May 29, 2002. All students and staff were very pleased with the information Mrs. Pam Gallichio, Mrs. Brenda Jones, and Mr. Keith Lesniak shared on careers with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

I hope to set aside a date next year during Earth Week for each of you to visit. Each student now has been exposed to three or more career choices to make decisions on what they want to be when they grow up.

Thank you again"

Contacts: Pam Gallichio (312-886-0386)  
Brenda Jones (312-886-7188)  
Keith Lesniak (312-886-7189)

**Thank You (Ginny Narsete), Meeting, National Emerging Communication & Outreach Team, Portland, Oregon**

In an e-mail, dated July 2, 2002, Helen Duteau of U.S. EPA Headquarters expressed thanks to Ginny Narsete and other members of the Emerging Communication & Outreach Team (ECOT), as follows:

"...Monday evening we held our ECOT meeting, which was actually a party and awards ceremony for those of you who have participated in responses over the past several years. We had about 80 people attend, including all of the CI managers at the conference, to celebrate your accomplishments. I'd like to thank all of you for the great work you've done and all the support you've given to make this team a success. A special thanks to Ginny, who made us all ECOT buttons (I'll make sure everyone gets one)!"

On Thursday, Ginny, Vicky and I presented a session on ECOT and it was well received. We focused it on the theme of "a day in

the life of an ECOT response." Ginny talked about her experiences with OHS, Vicky spoke about working with the USPS at their Command Center and I talked about the Capitol Hill response and gave a general overview of ECOT and how we deployed. Good job to Ginny and Vicky!..."

ECOT members received a bronze medal for their efforts from Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Respose.

Contact: Ginny Narsete (312-886-4359)

**Thank You (Ginny Narsete), National Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) Superfund Conference**

In an e-mail, dated July 3, 2002, Susan Gross, Coordinator, Office of Media and Communication Services, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), expressed thanks to Ginny Narsete, as follows:

"Ginny,  
My heartfelt thank you for suggesting and making it possible for me to participate in the National CIC Conference! It proved to be all that you had forecast most informative sessions and wonderful networking experience. Each session I attended will be very beneficial to my assignments at IDEM and helpful in working more closely with my colleagues at EPA and Region 5. I particularly found the information you presented in your session about ECOT interesting and an opportunity for me to assist in various ER incidents."

Contact: Ginny Narsete (312-886-4359)

cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)  
Barry Breen (OECA)  
Steve Luftig (OSWER)  
Larry Reed (OERR)  
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)  
Craig Beasley (OSWER)  
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)  
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)  
Mike Cook (OERR)  
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators  
Division/Office Directors  
ORA State Coordinators  
Regional Team Managers